1st November 1962]

வித்துவான் தி. முத்துக்கண்ணப்பன்: இந்த போர்டு அமைக்கப்படுவதன் நோக்கம் என்ன?

கனம் திருமதி ஜோதி வெங்கடாசலம்: போர்டு அமைப்பதே பரிசீலனையில் இருக்கிறது. அமைத்த பிறகு நோக்கத்தைச் சொல்ல முடியும்.

Synthetic anti-malarials

* 207 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 22 on 11th August 1960 (*a*) whether there is any restriction on the import of synthetic anti-malarials; and

(*b*) if so, the arrangements made for the availability of alternative drugs?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (*a*) Yes, Sir. The import of synthetic anti-malarials is restricted to 15 per cent of past imports in respect of chloroquine and its salts (in bulk) while the import quota is nil in respect of proguanil hydrochloride and lactate.

(*b*) The manufacture of synthetic anti-malarials, such as amodiaquin and chloroquine has been started in India. Four firms, three in Maharashtra and one in West Bengal, have been licensed to manufacture those drugs. Indigenous production supplemented by limited imports is expected to be sufficient to meet the country's requirements. Hence, the question of making available alternative drugs does not arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, may I know what is the quantity of indigenous medicine or material so far produced?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: Sir, a separate question may be put.

Old age pension

* 208 Q.—SRI SP. K. A. LAKSHMANAN CHETTIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that old age pension is denied to aged parents who have been discarded by the sons due to poverty on the ground that they have sons?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: No, Sir.

* 209 Q.—SRI SP. K. A. LAKSHMANAN CHETTIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to grant pension to aged people who have been left discarded by their well-to-do sons; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : What exactly is the procedure adopted in these cases and who is the verifying officer with regard to the poverty and destitution of the applicants?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The procedure and the person authorised to verify are all laid down in the rules. Under the rules governing the scheme, a destitute is defined as a person without any income or source of income, who has no relatives of 20 years of age and over of the following categories, namely, sons, son's sons and husbands or wives, provided that (1) a person will be deemed to be a destitute if all the relatives falling within the categories specified above are themselves without any income or source of income, such a fact being proved to the satisfaction of the sanctioning authority; or continuously missing and the sanctioning authority has satisfied himself by such enquiry as he deems necessary that the relatives are so missing.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Could the Government give information whether they have been able to meet the demand in respect of all applications for such assistance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, these applications are scrutinized and decisions are taken. But it is not possible to scrutinize all applications that have been received. More staff has been sanctioned. We will look into the expeditious scrutiny and taking of decisions on the several applications.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Is not the Collector the sanctioning authority in these cases, Sir?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. But the Collector himself cannot personally look into all these applications.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, is it due to lack of funds that we are limiting the scrutiny of applications or due to want of staff?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, there is no question of lack of funds. The scheme is there as it has been evolved and it will be carried out.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is there not an allotment of funds for this purpose for each district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no such allotment for each district. As and when applications are received, scrutinized and accepted, necessary funds are provided for meeting the expenditure.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, the Hon. Minister said that if the near relatives were without any income, a pension was granted. Will the Government consider the case of such persons as are discarded by their sons or daughters who are earning members?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. If there are earning members, they are not considered. Then, Sir, I may add that a person will be deemed to be a destitute if the wife has attained the age of 55 years.

Metric weights

* 210 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that vegetable vendors and others engaged in petty trades in Kotwal Bazaar, Madras, still continue to use viss weights instead of kilogram weights; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce the use of kilogram weights?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have already taken steps by publicity, propaganda, persuasion and surprise inspections to enforce the use of metric weights. The enforcement staff has been seizing the old weights wherever found in use. As a result of these steps, it is reported that the transactions are now done by weighment with new metric weights.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Have any prosecutions been made in this connection ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The information is not with me now, Sir.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that kilogram weight is passed off as viss by vegetable vendors when they deal with illiterate people ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have not received any such complaints, Sir. If the hon. Member is aware of such practices, he might pass on the information to the Government and it will be looked into.

Sand dunes

* 211 *Q.*—SRI T. DORAIRAJ : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of wet lands and river-bed lands on the banks of the Cauveri in Srirangam firka affected by sand dunes during 1961 floods;

(*b*) whether any compensation was paid to those lands; and

(*c*) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such damages to the river-bed lands in Srirangam firka?